



GRAD

Great Resources for Attainment of Diplomas

The Job Corps Career Development Resource Center has added a new section to its Web site titled GRAD – Great Resources for Attainment of Diplomas, which can be accessed at <http://www.jccdrcc.org/grad>.

GRAD was created to help staff develop quality high school diploma programs. Its features include information on accredited high schools, partnerships, virtual high schools and professional development activities.

Some of the resources offered on the Web site:

Center Guide to Planning a High School Program in CDSS.

This is a tool that assists centers with planning a high school diploma program. You can download the information from Microsoft Word, and it reviews items that centers should think about in each phase of CDSS when planning a high school diploma program.

Meet Job Corps PowerPoint. This Microsoft PowerPoint presentation provides a generic template for centers to use in initiating conversations with local school officials. You can save the file and personalize it to meet the needs of your center.

State-by-State Directory. This directory offers a comprehensive resource of educational information and contacts in each state.



Region II

HSD/GED News

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HSD OnLine Opportunities

Virtual high school diploma programs offer incredible benefits for Job Corps centers and are helping to increase the number of Job Corps students who graduate with a high school diploma.

For centers with high school diploma programs, online courses are supplementing existing curricula by offering students a variety of classes and instructional methods from which to choose. For centers without a high school diploma program, the online programs are helping students gain core high school credits.

Centers interested in exploring online opportunities should first examine their infrastructure to assess their centers' capabilities and commitment to online learning. Once centers decide to search for an online provider, they should remember to make sure the provider meets both the centers' needs and the PRH requirements. In addition, some states have state-sponsored online programs. To look up your state, go to the following Web address, www.jccdrcc.org/grad.

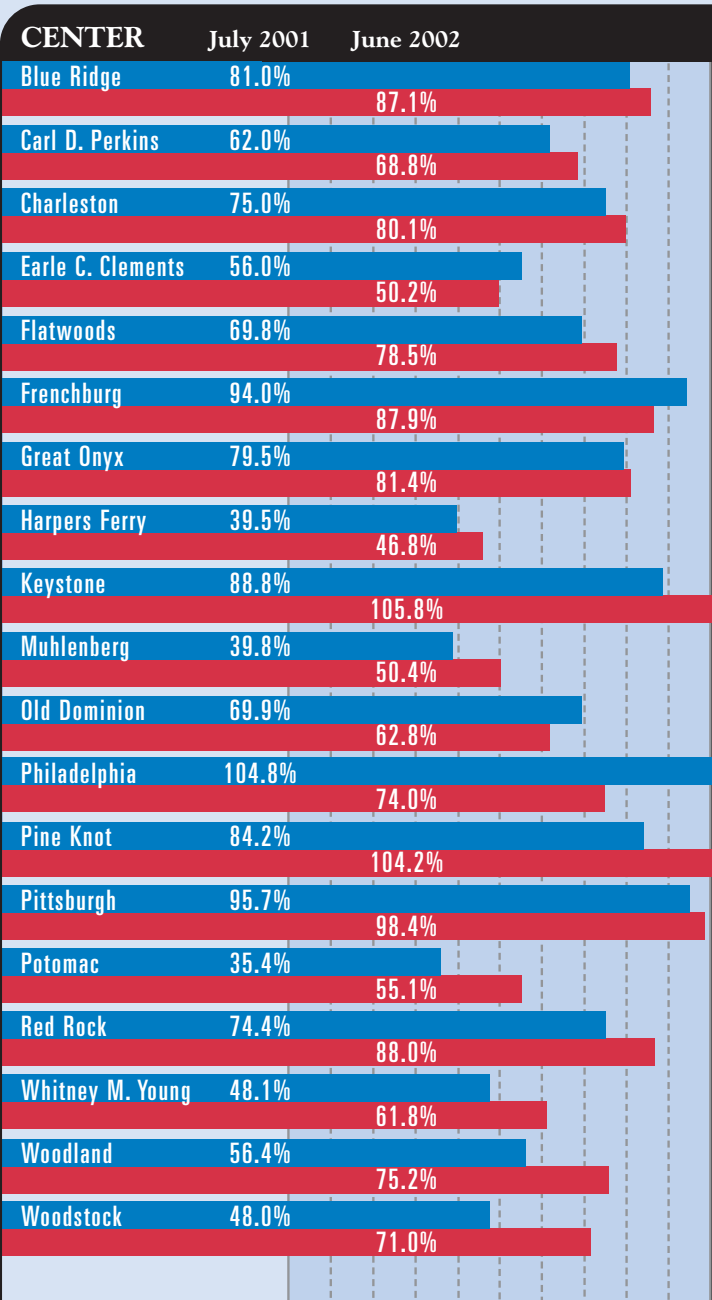
Below are many factors that a center should consider when selecting an online provider.

Accrediting Agencies

The PRH requires that all high school programs, including virtual high schools, be accredited (accepted by the military and post-secondary institutions) through a recognized accrediting body. Many virtual programs

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This chart shows statistics for GED/HSD attainments for the Region II centers. It is interesting to note that of the 19 centers, only four centers did not show growth between July 7, 2001, and June 30, 2002. Most showed growth in regard to HSD/GED attainments for terminated students. Remember, the numbers represent the percentage of success of the model base. For instance, if the model base is 52 percent and the attainment is listed at 88 percent, that would represent the percentage of success of the model base – 88 percent success of 52 percent.



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offer diplomas through a specific state. To determine what accreditation is required for the state entity issuing the diploma, please visit <http://www.jccdr.org> and go to the accredited high school link.

True Costs v. Hidden Costs

When researching a virtual high school diploma program provider, make sure all costs involved are clearly communicated. Be aware that in addition to the cost per student/course, the following costs may not be included: fees for transcript evaluation and maintenance, program updates, books, materials, software, technical support and training, testing and graduation fees. Remember that all prices are negotiable.

System Requirements

System specifications need to be reviewed by a corporate MIS specialist to assess the center's infrastructure (server, software, individual PCs, Internet access, etc.) to support the technical requirements of a given virtual high school diploma program.

Vendor Capacity

Some center contractors have run into capacity issues with virtual high school diploma program vendors. Capacity issues to be considered: turnaround time for transcript evaluation, staff-to-student ratios, availability of educational resources and technical support, synchronous vs. asynchronous learning, etc.

Dedicated Center Staff

Fulfilling the requirements for a virtual high school diploma program may include staff supervision of students, specific staff credentials and ongoing staff training. Depending on the virtual high school diploma program requirements, a reallocation of staff resources may be necessary.

Preparatory Time

Contractors should research the amount of time it takes to get a student enrolled in the virtual high school diploma program. For example, transcript review may take four months depending on school district cooperation, outstanding student fees and multiple school attendance.



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Virtual high school diploma programs your center might want to research further:

State-sponsored Programs

The Florida Virtual School

<http://www.flvs.net>

The Florida Virtual School is the nation's largest state-sponsored online high school, enrolling more than 5,000 high school students and offering approximately 40 courses. There is at least one student enrolled from every county in the state, and some come from outside Florida. It is tuition-free for students in the state; students or schools outside the state are charged for courses.

Kentucky Virtual High School

<http://www.kvhs.org>

Nearly 500 students are enrolled in the Kentucky Virtual High School. The school's primary mission is to help students from schools that don't offer the courses they seek. Kentucky residents who are non-public school students may be able to enroll through the local public high school. Most students take one course at a time in an advanced placement subject, a foreign language, or another subject that their school doesn't offer.

Commercial Vendors

American Preparatory Institute

<http://api.ctcd.cc.tx.us/api.htm>

American Preparatory Institute (API) is an accredited, non-public, non-profit school offering programs in adult basic education at pre-secondary and secondary levels. Since its inception in 1973, API has graduated more than 10,000 students. Diplomas are issued through API, or credits can be transferred back to the student's home school district.

Intelligent Education, Inc.

<http://www.intelligented.com/index.html>

Intelligent Education, Inc.'s independent study program is an innovative resource for students in alternative academic programs. IEI offers a wide variety of core, technology, career, enrichment and honors courses. Its open enrollment policy allows learners the flexibility to follow a traditional school calendar or to design a tailored academic schedule to meet their individual needs. IEI's comprehensive curriculum meets all legal and graduation requirements of the Accreditation Commission for Independent Study.

Educational Options, Inc.

<http://www.edoption.com/>

Educational Options, Inc., (EOI) offers a complete, accredited high school curriculum that allows students to graduate with a diploma from Home Study International. Educational Options' Internet-based distance learning system meets the educational requirements of students at all levels and abilities. EOI's program was designed with at-risk students foremost in mind, and the program is fully approved by the nationally recognized Distance Education and Training Council.

Laurel Springs

<http://www.laurelsprings.com/>

Laurel Springs is a private school accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and the National Independent Study Accreditation Council (NISAC). Based on the rigorous requirements of the state of California, its programs meet or exceed state standards and expectations nationwide. A complete high school curriculum is available, and transfer credits are accepted.

University of Missouri-Columbia High School

<http://cdis.missouri.edu/MUHighSchool/HShome.htm>

The University of Missouri-Columbia High School is a part of the University of Missouri Center for Distance and Independent Study. The mission of the University of Missouri-Columbia High School is to provide courses, through a variety of delivery methods, that will complement traditional high school curricula, and provide an accredited diploma program for independent learners of all ages seeking an alternative to traditional high school attendance.

MU High School offers a convenient, credible option for home school students, rural students seeking college preparation, gifted students seeking challenges or students who need to catch up on a few courses. MU High School offers a diverse and comprehensive curriculum, which includes more than 150 courses.

Virtual Greenbush

<http://www.virtualgreenbush.org/>

Virtual Greenbush, a division of the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, provides students, educators and community members with a wide range of courses and training delivered through the Internet. Virtual Greenbush offers a diploma program for students outside the state of Kansas. Additionally, Virtual Greenbush affords school districts access to necessary cost-effective educational services that would otherwise be unavailable or unaffordable. Services are extended to the education community (i.e., administrators, teachers, school personnel and parents) in a collaborative effort to provide quality education to all students.

Kentucky Virtual Adult Education and Literacy Program

In early October, the Whitney M. Young Job Corps Center and Education Management Corporation (EMC) hosted a meeting with representatives from the Kentucky Job Corps centers, U.S. Department of Labor, Cheryl King, Kentucky commissioner of the Department for Adult Education and Literacy, and her staff.

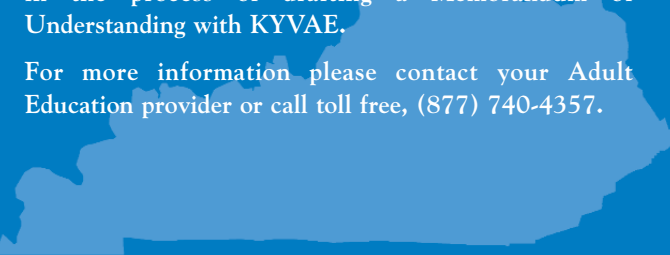
King introduced the Kentucky Virtual Adult Education and Literacy Program, from which all Kentucky Job Corps centers will soon be able to benefit.

The Kentucky Virtual Adult Education and Literacy Program is a new adult education Web site that offers learning opportunities for students and educators, including access to databases full of resources for educators. Students can experience learning on the Internet from any computer day or night. Each learner is assigned an instructor to help the student if needed.

The Kentucky Virtual Adult Education (KYVAE) Web site is the result of a federally funded partnership between Kentucky Virtual University and the Kentucky Department for Adult Education and Literacy. The mission of the KYVAE site is to provide adult learners and instructors access to literacy information, curriculum, resources and services in an easy-to-use and motivational format. The site is dedicated to helping adult learners achieve their personal learning goals, including skills improvement, grade level goals and/or completion of the GED.

With this partnership, all services and resources available are free. The Kentucky Job Corps centers are in the process of drafting a Memorandum of Understanding with KYVAE.

For more information please contact your Adult Education provider or call toll free, (877) 740-4357.



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